

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The present invention is related to a method for oligomerizing olefinic monomers under oligomerization conditions to form higher olefins. The novel method comprises contacting a feed comprising the olefinic monomers with a catalyst composition comprising the reaction product of: (a) a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of M[S₂C₂(R^aR^b)]₂ and M[S₂C₆(R¹R²R³R⁴)]₂, wherein M is a late transition metal, R^a, R^b, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected and may be the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups and unsubstituted and substituted hydrocarbyl groups; and (b) an activating cocatalyst. The improved method advantageously relates to oligomerizing olefinic monomers from feed streams having contaminants, especially sulfur-containing contaminants.